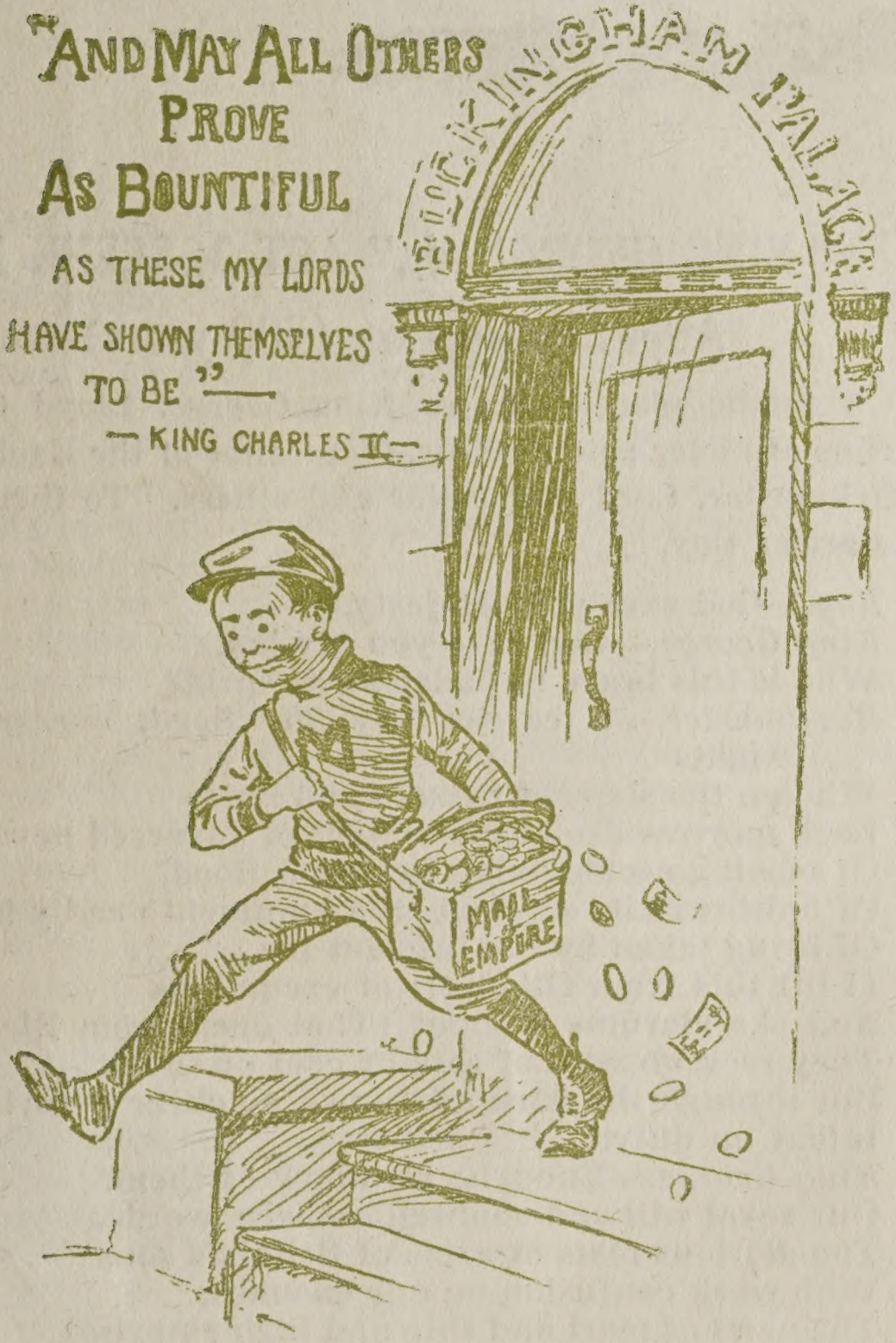
"AND MAY ALL OTHERS
PROVE
AS BOUNTIFUL
AS THESE MY LORDS
HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES
TO BE"

— KING CHARLES II —



CHRISTMAS-1916.

"KING GEORGE V.," ACT 3, SCENE 1.

After Shakespeare (300 years).

A public place. Enter King George, Lloyd George, Prime Minister ; Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Buckmaster, Lord Chancellor and others. To them enter a Carrier Boy.

Boy.—God save your Majesty.
King George.—God save you my lad.
Who is this brave but adolescent sprig?
Buckmaster.—A carrier boy, my liege; one of those wights
Who on the steps of palaces and huts
Each morrow drop their freight of garnered news
Of moving accidents by field and flood,
Of hairbreadth ' scapes i ' the imminent deadly breach
Of being taken by the insolent foe
(I lift this from Othello); of excursions
And eke alarums without (That one's from Richard).
They reck no whit of rain or cold or snow,
But through the dark and dawn go cheer'ly forth
Intent on duty.
King George.—Enough; we know of them.
Our royal will and counsellors' wise words,
The glorious feats of arms of Britain's sons
Who work confusion on our enemies,
The news of mart and ship and high emprise

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They carry to all subjects of our lands;
In short, they knit our realms in kindred bonds
And spread the knowledge of our common ends
Among our peoples in much better wise
Than if we sent a million heralds forth,
In tabard dight, with brazen trump at lip,
To publish them. What would he of us?
Lloyd George.—The Christmas season draweth on apace.
And he would crave a trifle from thy purse
To make him cheer.
King George.—That he shall have,
And with our right good will.
Law, see that it's done.
Bonar Law.—A shilling, sire?
King George.—Now out upon thee for a niggard soul.
Two shillings, nothing less, or even three,
Or, as our brave Canadian soldier lads
Pervert it, in their quaint Canadian way,
"Six bits," and see it speedily bestowed,
For 'tis his just desert and recompense.
Come, to the palace. (Exit all but boy.)
Boy.—God save His Majesty,
And God save all good folk whose gentle hearts
Prompt a like largesse. Under such a king,
Who rules with justice and with charity,
With hope of victory and prosperity,
Inspired by brotherhood and Christmas cheer
We'll forth to face anew the coming year.

(CURTAIN)

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